Action against India under S-301

1418. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI M. PADMANABHAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though US has named India, Brazil and Thailand as priority foreign countries against whom action was to be taken under special 301 provision of the US trade Act, yet US has indicated that no punitive action is contemplated against India; and

(b) if so, what is the precise indication and status in the matter at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An inter-agency team has been appointed by the US Administration to monitor actions taken by the Government of India to address US concerns on intellectual property rights.

Export of rice and wheat

1419. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) if so, whether Government have ment have finally decided to export rice and wheat to foreign countries;

(c) if so, whether Government have started high level talk with some foreign countries in this regard;

(c) what are the details with their outcome of the talk held with the countries, country-wise;

(d) what would be its likely impact on the domestic market as well as on middle and poor classes of consumers in the country; and

(e) the quantum of the foreign currency India would earn in this way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) No decision to export wheat has been taken. However, export of wheat products from the open market upto a maximum of one lakh MTs will be allowed during 1993-94. As regards rice, export of basmati rice is permissible subject only to a minimum export price (MEP) restriction. Export of superfine varieties of non-basmati rice is allowed subject to MEP and ceiling as may be prescribed by the Government. A contract has also been signed between FCI and Nepal Food Corporation for the export of 30,000 MT of rice to Nepal at a concessional rate.

(d) It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodities in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected.

(e) The target for export of cereals during 1993-94 is US $370 million.

Anti-militant operations in Kashmir

1420. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Army has launched anti-militant operations in Kashmir Valley;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what success has been achieved so far by the Army in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Army has been assisting the Civil administration in Jammu and Kashmir in flushing out anti-national elements (ANEs) since April 90. The Army operations include cordon and search, area domination, patrolling, road opening, convey protection and such like duties.

(c) During these operations, till date 2216 ANEs have been killed and 12065